

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 17, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Court Judge Roger T. Benitez today sentenced Sergio Martinez in federal district court in San Diego to six months in a Community Correctional Center, 960 hours of community service, five years probation, and ordered him to pay \$150.00 per month over a five year period to educate hunters and hikers, for starting what became one of the largest wildfires in the history of Southern California.

Martinez pled guilty on March 10, 2005, to the felony charge of setting timber afire, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1855. In connection with his plea, Martinez admitted that on October 25, 2003, in the Cleveland National Forest, he willfully set brush and timber he had gathered on fire. He further acknowledged that he did not have authority to set the fire and that the fire (later known as the "Cedar fire") subsequently spread throughout the forest and other areas of San Diego County.

DEFENDANT

Sergio Espinoza Martinez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1855-Setting Timber Afire

Penalties: Maximum five years in prison, \$250,000 fine, \$100.00 penalty assessment,
and three years Supervised Release

AGENCY

United States Forest Service